

(*Journ., B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxviii, p. 1045) gives a few instances of poisoning by large Mygalomorph spiders. The bite may be attended with pain and swelling which may extend up the bitten limb and may persist for 24 hours.—EDS.]

XVIII.—A CENTIPEDE EATING ITS EGGS.

It is well-known that the centipedes display a certain amount of parental care; brooding their eggs and coiling round their young till they are able to fend for themselves. The centipede (*Scolopendra* sp.) in question is a small metallic bluish-black species found very commonly in the Ghats. On the 20th July, at Khandala I found one coiled round her creamy coloured eggs under a stone. I put her, together with her eggs, into a tube. In the tube she also coiled round the egg mass. On the 25th morning I found that she had devoured all her eggs. This eating of the eggs was evidently occasioned by hunger as I had put nothing into the tube for her to eat, and is, of course, not habitual, especially in an animal that displays parental care. However, it points to one thing, namely, that under normal conditions the parent periodically leaves her eggs or young to feed.

This centipede breeds commonly between the months of July and September during which period I have frequently found it with either eggs or young.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

BOMBAY.

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29th July, 1941.

XIX.—A NOVEL WAY OF COLLECTING BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.

(*Wayside Trees of Malaya* by E. J. H. Corner, Hongkong Naturalist, vol. x, Nos. 3 & 4, 1941.)

Anyone who has ever visited a stretch of jungle in any State in Malaya will have realized that it is by no means easy to study and to know the trees. When a tree is 150 feet high and has no branches for the first 60 or 80 feet it is difficult to collect specimens of leaves, or flowers or fruits for determination and study. Mr. Corner uses a telescope, not binoculars, to bring the foliage nearer but specimens are essential. One method is to use a .12 bore shotgun and to hope that a lucky shot will bring down enough fragments to be of value. But Mr. Corner evolved a new technique. He recruited, as an experiment, a berok monkey, *Macacus nemestrina*, the well-known Pig-tailed Monkey which is widely used in the East by Malayas for gathering coconuts. Merah, as it was named, proved a great success. 'On one occasion in Johore, for instance, it worked in the crown of a Wild Chempedak at the height of 170 feet: on another day it collected specimens from 24 trees, all of which were over 100 feet in height.' 'At the end